

Synthesis of the Four Diastereoisomers of the N-Terminal Amino Acids of Nikkomycins *via* Aminoalkylation with Preformed Ternary Iminium Salts*

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Dedicated to Prof. Dr. Karsten Krohn on the occasion of his 60th birthday

An efficient and convenient two step synthesis of each of the four possible diastereoisomers of the N-terminal amino acid component of nikkomycins is described. We first synthesized α -amino- β -oxo acids by aminoalkylation of ketones with iminium salts. The second step using Pearlman's catalyst gave directly nonnatural and natural precursors **13** – **16** of nikkomycins **1** which were easily separated by chromatography on silica gel.

Key words: Nikkomycins, Mannich Bases, Aminoalkylation, Lactones, 1,3-Amino Alcohols